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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

More Retirements at Year's End

For the past dozen years, **Philip S. Aune** has managed the Station's Vegetation Management Alternatives for Regeneration of California Conifers Research and Development Program as Program Manager. Headquartered in Redding, Calif., the Program, which formerly consisted of two research work units, now consists of four science teams and support staff.

Born in St. Paul, Minn., Phil earned a forestry degree at Humboldt State University in 1965. He started his FS career in 1962 as a temporary employee. Phil joined the Station staff in 1987, after having served the previous 23 years on four National Forests—Shasta-Trinity, Sequoia, Six Rivers, and Tahoe—in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) as a forestry technician, forester, and district and forest silviculturist.

When Phil retires on December 31, with 35 years of Federal service, it will not be to a life of leisure. Instead, he will be moving on to "the other side"—as Vice President and Director of Public Resources for the California Forestry Association. Phil and his wife Diane plan to move to Sacramento, where the CFA is based.

About his pending retirement and new job, Phil says: "The Forest Service is blessed with an incredible complement of dedicated employees. PSW really exemplifies this dedication. But it is time for me to move on to a new career with the California Forestry Association, which is an advocacy group committed to environmentally sound policies, sustainable use of renewable resources, and responsible forestry. These are also my personal commitments, and our paths will cross again."

Few FS scientists have held the title bestowed on **Jared (Jerry) Verner**. Since 1995, he has been a senior scientist—a position that affords him a wide latitude in defining his research role. He concludes his career on December 31, after 25 years of Federal Service.

Jerry earned a B.S. degree (1957) in wildlife management at Washington State University, an M.S. degree (1959) in zoology at Louisiana State University, and a doctorate in zoology (1963) at the University of Washington. After 2 years as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California at Berkeley, he began his teaching career, first at Central Washington University (1965-73), where he became a professor of biology; and then at Illinois State University, where he became professor of ecology.

"I left academia for PSW in 1976, primarily to escape central Illinois and what my wife Marlene calls our '3-year sentence in the Midwest,'" says Jerry.

Assigned to the Station's Fresno laboratory since 1976 as Project Leader, Jerry has overseen Sensitive Species Research,

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Station Director's Message

We have had a productive yet turbulent year at PSW. Fine work has been done by all, often on controversial projects and issues. These include long-term soil productivity, fire surrogates, Sierra Nevada Framework, roads analysis, Southern California biodiversity conservation, native amphibians, pine genome mapping, tropical forested wetlands, recreation fees, wildlife habitats in managed forests, Lake Tahoe, invasive species, and much more. We have performed exceptionally well on financial management changes, on several construction projects, and handled some tough personnel challenges with minimal staff resources.

We have all taken some hits in 1999, regarding the budget situation. This has been especially stressful with the euphoria over the President's FY2000 budget juxtaposed to the final Congressional appropriation. Now we have more belt tightening to do. We will give it another go in the FY2001 budget process and see if we can make up lost ground. Never give up!

If you have not heard yet, I will be moving on in July, to become Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, in Corvallis. I will do this with truly mixed emotions: excitement over the new position and yet sadness that I leave PSW earlier than I had anticipated. When I came to the Station some 2 years ago, my goal was to leave it healthier and more resilient than when I arrived. That is still possible, and so I intend to work hard during the next 8 months to complete adjustments we started during the past 2 years.

Becoming a natural resources dean at a major academic institution was my ultimate career goal from the very first. I thought I might reach retirement age with the Forest Service before such an opportunity presented itself, but I didn't quite make it. For the past year and a half, I rejected invitations to apply for deanships because I wanted to make more progress in leading a revitalized Pacific Southwest Research Station. When Oregon State University allowed me to apply and interview with the understanding that I was unavailable until summer 2000, I couldn't pass up the opportunity again.

Thank you for all that you have given to strengthen the Forest Service and the scientific basis for conservation of natural resources this past year. As you celebrate the holidays with family and friends, please know how much you are appreciated for your contributions to the welfare of current and future generations of Americans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Salwasser".

Hal Salwasser

(More Retirements-Continued)

then Wildlife Population Monitoring Research, and finally Wildlife/Range Management Research. In 1995, he relinquished the Project leadership to concentrate on his own research.

“FS Research has been much too good to me over the years,” according to Jerry, “most of which involved me in controversial issues, starting with California condors, then mountain lions, and finally spotted owl. I’ve learned about a lot more than biology in this real-world caldron.”

His plans after retirement includes lots of exercising, birdwatching, travel, reading, writing, and probably some local volunteer service. And he plans to complete some publications that need to be done.

In **Cynthia K. Jacobs’** 37-year career with PSW, she’s been able to view the Station’s fortunes from a watchful position: as the Station Director’s secretary. In that capacity, she has served five Directors, two whom are now retired and one soon to be.

Cynthia, a native of Honolulu, earned a B.S. degree in secretarial science at Pacific Union College. She started her PSW career in 1962 as library technician in Berkeley, and in 1986 became the Director’s secretary. Except for brief details to the FS Washington Office, she has spent her entire 37-year career at PSW.

“When I realize that I have worked exclusively at PSW for all those 37 years, I must have considered it a good place to be,” says Cynthia. “Except for working for about 8 months in the library of the St. Helena Sanitarium and Hospital, near Napa, I have worked nowhere else.”

After the retirement, on December 31, Cynthia hopes to find a part-time position somewhere. And she and her husband Wesley will continue to live in Berkeley. “I have enjoyed working for the Forest Service, have made many friends across the United States within the agency, and I will miss them,” she says.

Oliver Elected Forestry Society Fellow

Bill Oliver has been elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters—the highest honor the SAF can bestow on its members. Fellows are recognized for their outstanding service to forestry and the Society. Long active in the SAF, Bill has served as chair of the local chapter of the Northern California SAF. At PSW, he is Team Leader—Forest Growth and Development, at the Silviculture Laboratory, at Redding.

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Thomas Named Associate Deputy Chief

Robin Thompson has been appointed the new Associate Deputy Chief—State and Private Forestry, in the FS Washington Office. She had been Acting Associate Deputy Chief, and before that, was Director of Program Development and Budget. She had served in a similar directorship in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5). Her husband, Clyde, is the agency’s Deputy Chief—Business Operations, in the FS WO.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

- Western Forest Insect Work Conference/Western Forest Disease Work Conference, Sep. 13–17, Breckenridge, Colo.: Haiganoush Preisler, Statistics Group, Albany, presented a paper on “Spatial Analysis: How Can We Use It?” Nancy Rappaport, Soil Productivity Research Team, Albany, gave papers on: “Effect of Prescribed Burn on Oribatid Mite Assemblages at Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest” (co-authors: Karen Lamoncha, Michael Camman), and “Development of Cone Beetle Pheromones for Pine Seed Crop Protection” (co-authors, John Stein and Sylvia Mori).
- FS National Silviculture Workshop, Oct. 4–7, Kalispell, Mont.: Members of the Vegetation Management Research and Development Program, Redding, attended. Phil Aune spoke on “The Status of Silviculture.” Phil McDonald talked about “Changes in Plant Communities After Planting and Release of Conifer Seedlings in California.” Fabian Uzoh presented a poster on “Gooseneck Adaptive Management Area: Little Horse Peak Experimental Area—Accelerating Development of Late Successional Forest Vegetation.” Phil McDonald and Gary Fiddler each received an award for “Outstanding Contributions to Timber Management in the Field of Silviculture.”

Personnelly Speaking

Awards

- Andrea Meyer, Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside: “for sustained superior performance in the Research Work Unit.”
- Eugene Hanson, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit: for facilitating efforts of the Research Work Unit.”